

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOMENICI COMMENDS ALAMOGORDO-HOLLOMAN HOSPITAL

Hospital Invests and Returns Interest Money to U.S. Treasury

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today commended the Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center and Holloman Air Force Base for their joint management of the shared civilian-military hospital, which has resulted in the return of more than \$350,000 to the U.S. Treasury.

Domenici, a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, secured \$7 million in the 1998 Defense Appropriations Bill to allow the Air Force to merge its Holloman medical facilities with a new civilian hospital in Alamogordo. Dedicated last November under a shared facility agreement, it had been estimated that the Air Force would save at least \$1.6 million a year.

Domenici today learned from Carl W. Mantey, Gerald Champion CEO, that the hospital administration had invested the \$7 million federal appropriation until it could be used to purchase equipment. The investment earned \$354,060.99 in interest, which the hospital has returned to the U.S. Treasury.

"I think this is wonderful news that further fortifies my belief that the joint military-civilian arrangement was a very good idea. I commend the hospital administration for its management of the federal investment Congress made to give this agreement wings. We can all applaud this most efficient use of taxpayer dollars," Domenici said.

"I look forward to more updates on how this unique health care compact is saving the taxpayers money while still providing the health care needed by our military personnel and the people of Otero County," he said.

In a letter informing Domenici of the news, Mantey wrote that the shared medical services agreement is "progressing very well with savings to date to the Air Force exceeding projections."

"While our hospital and Holloman Air Force Base do not receive credit for the interest savings, I thought that you should know that the money that you entrusted to us was wisely invested and the interest returned to the U.S. Treasury to be used for other worthwhile needs," Mantey wrote Domenici. *"I remain confident that both the leadership of our hospital and HAFB 49th Medical Group will continue to demonstrate that trust which you placed in this*

project will prove to be well conceived.”

The new Gerald Champion hospital, merged with the Holloman medical center at Holloman into one shared location, was designed to meet the demands of both Holloman and the civilian community in the areas of emergency and inpatient care, surgery, radiology, and laboratory services. Domenici toured the new facility this February.